DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 480 459 UD 035 853

AUTHOR	Fields, Jason
TITLE	Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics: March 2002. Current Population Reports.
INSTITUTION	Bureau of the Census (DOC), Washington, DC. Economics and Statistics Administration.
PUB DATE	2003-06-00
NOTE	21p.
AVAILABLE FROM	U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233. Tel: 301-763-2422; e-mail: pop@census.gov. For full text: http://www.census.gov/ population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html.
PUB TYPE	Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Research (143)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Census Figures; *Child Welfare; Cohabitation; Employed Parents; Employment Level; Extended Family; Family Income; *Family Structure; Grandparents; Health Insurance; Immigrants; Labor Force; Mothers; One Parent Family; Poverty; Residential Patterns; *Socioeconomic Status; Welfare Services
IDENTIFIERS	Current Population Survey

ABSTRACT

As part of the 2002 Current Population Survey, this report presents information on several characteristics of children, covering different aspects of their lives. It focuses on demographic characteristics of the child population of the United States and family living arrangements, including single parent families, cohabiting parent families, and the presence of "coresident" grandparents; parents' and children's labor force participation, featuring new estimates of children living with "stay-at-home" fathers and mothers; and the economic status of children's families, including participation in public assistance programs and health insurance coverage of children. Finally, the distribution of the child population by their nativity status and that of their parents illustrates the diversity of the youngest segment of the U.S. population. Overall, children living with two parents were consistently more economically advantaged than children living in other types of living arrangements. Even among children living with two parents, 9 percent lacked health insurance, 8 percent were living below the poverty level, and 4 percent lived in households receiving food stamps. Children in two parent families generally had greater access to more financial resources and greater amounts of parental time. They were also more likely to participate in extracurricular activities, progress more steadily in school, and have more supervision over their activities. (Contains 9 tables and 27 footnotes.) (SM)

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ED 480 459

Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics: March 2002

Population Characteristics

Issued June 2003

P20-547

Current Population Reports

By
Jason Fields

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This report provides information on several characteristics of children, covering different aspects of their lives. The subjects that are included encompass: demographic characteristics of the child population of the United States and family living arrangements, including the presence of "coresident" grandparents; parents' and children's labor force participation, featuring new estimates of children living with "stay-at-home" fathers and mothers; and the economic status of children's families, including participation in public assistance programs and health insurance coverage of children. Finally, the distribution of the child population by their nativity status and that of their parents illustrates the diversity of the youngest segment of our population.

CHILDREN: NUMBERS AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In March 2002, 72 million children (defined as the population under 18) resided in the United States, up from 64 million in 1990.[1] These children represented 26 percent of the U.S. noninstitutionalized population, a proportion that was essentially unchanged from 1990 but down from 36 percent in 1960. This change is an important demographic trend, fundamentally related to the baby-boom cohort (people born from 1946 through 1964) moving through the age

Why a Report on Children?

Children occupy an important place in American society. Their welfare is a concern both to parents and to the public at large. This report is the first in the Current Population Reports P20 series that consolidates Current Population Survey data on children into a single report and presents a broad picture of the characteristics of children across several domains relating to their well-being.

Some of the data contained in this report have been, and continue to be, available separately in other reports. Beginning with the March 2002 Current Population Survey (CPS), this report and its future updates will provide a source of information on the status of children. It will be published in alternate years to the American Families and Living Arrangements Report — which focuses on adults and families. Detailed and historical tables on children will be produced annually and made available on the Internet at: *www.census.gov*.

[1] This includes all children except those living in group quarters, householders, subfamily reference people, and their spouses.

The data in this report are from the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included if there is at least one civilian adult living in the household.

The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All comparisons made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

Demographic Programs

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Table 1.
Children by Age and Family Structure: March 2002[1]

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Total under 18 years		Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-5 years	6-8 years	9-11 years	12-14 years	15-17 years	Total under 6 years	Total 6-11 years
	Number	90-percent confidence interval (Standard error) (±)[2]									
All children	72,321	689	3,917	7,917	11,528	11,954	12,669	12,492	11,842	23,363	24,623
Two parents	49,666	600	2,778	5,552	8,028	8,307	8,615	8,521	7,864	16,358	16,922
Child of householder	48,843	596	2,710	5,410	7,890	8,191	8,490	8,388	7,766	16,009	16,680
Grandchild of householder	476	64	56	107	89	71	60	64	30	251	131
Other relative of householder	315	52	12	32	46	42	61	59	63	91	102
Nonrelative of householder	32	17	-	4	3	4	4	11	6	7	8
Householder has an unmarried partner - parent is not the householder or partner[3]	13	11	-	1	-	-	5	6	-	2	5
Mother only	16,473	368	832	1,723	2,584	2,724	3,032	2,865	2,714	5,139	5,755
Child of householder	13,747	338	568	1,274	2,071	2,286	2,641	2,474	2,434	3,913	4,927
Grandchild of householder	1,657	120	215	355	366	246	191	180	104	936	438
Other relative of householder	524	68	36	61	59	72	74	120	103	155	146
Nonrelative of householder	545	69	13	34	88	120	125	92	73	135	245
Mother is householder in an unmarried partner household[3]	1,430	111	121	234	254	242	258	185	155	608	500
Mother is partner in an unmarried partner household[3]	369	57	4	10	52	93	89	67	55	65	182
Children under 15 years	13,759	338	832	1,723	2,584	2,724	3,032	2,865	(X)	5,139	5,756
In a POSSLQ household[4]	1,562	116	129	256	337	350	313	177	(X)	722	663
Father only	3,297	169	233	402	506	464	544	551	598	1,141	1,007
Child of householder	2,851	157	193	340	449	371	479	482	537	982	850
Grandchild of householder	275	49	33	42	47	50	38	44	22	121	87
Other relative of householder	92	28	5	12	6	15	15	15	24	23	30
Nonrelative of householder	78	26	2	8	5	28	12	9	15	14	40
Father is householder in an unmarried partner household[3]	1,022	94	139	212	222	119	131	110	88	574	250
Father is partner in an unmarried partner household[3]	59	23	1	2	2	26	11	6	10	6	36
Children under 15 years	2,699	153	233	402	506	464	544	551	(X)	1,141	1,008
In a POSSLQ household[4]	904	89	144	213	214	137	115	80	(X)	572	252
Neither parent	2,885	158	75	240	410	460	479	555	667	725	939
Grandchild of householder	1,273	105	26	113	196	224	238	243	233	335	462
Other relative of householder	802	84	24	67	101	97	127	160	226	192	224
Foster child	235	45	5	18	38	47	34	49	43	62	81
Nonrelative of householder	575	71	20	41	76	91	80	104	164	137	171
Householder has an unmarried partner[3]	216	43	9	13	32	36	40	43	43	54	76
Children under 15 years	2,218	139	75	240	410	460	479	555	(X)	725	939
In a POSSLQ household[4]	186	40	6	19	38	41	43	40	(X)	62	83

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. X Not applicable.

[1]All people under age 18, excluding those living in group quarters, householders, subfamily reference people, and their spouses.

[2]This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimated total number of children under 18 in each category, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

[3]If the parent is either the householder with an unmarried partner in the household or the unmarried partner of the householder, they are cohabiting based on this direct measure. Cohabiting couples where neither partner is the householder are not identified.

[4]POSSLQ (Persons of the Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters) is defined by the presence of only two people over age 15 in the household who are opposite sex, not related, and not married. There can be any number of people under age 15 in the household. The universe of children under age 15 is shown as the denominator for POSSLQ measurement.

Note: Data based on the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/tp63rv.pdf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

Definition Box 1.

CHILD

In the context of this report, children are people under 18 years of age who are not householders, family reference people, or their spouses. The CPS does not distinguish between biological, step, or adopted children. Foster children are nonrelatives of the householder.

PARENT

On each child's data record, a single person is identified as the "parent" of that child. This person is usually the child's mother, and if she is not present, the father is identified. This does not identify the biological, step, or adopted relationship between this person and the child. When a characteristic of a child's parent is presented, such as education, it is usually the characteristic of this identified parent. Using this linkage, the spouse identifier linkage, and the sex of each person, the mother and father can be identified. In certain cases, such as nativity and labor force status of the parents, the characteristics of both parents are used if two parents are present.

TWO-PARENT FAMILY

In the Current Population Survey, children live in a two-parent family if they are living with a parent who is married with his or her spouse present. This is not an indicator of the biological relationship between the child and the parents. The parent who is identified could be a biological, step, or adoptive parent. If a second parent is present and not married to the first parent, then the child is identified as living with a single parent.

SINGLE-PARENT FAMILY

A "single" parent is defined as a parent who is not currently living with a spouse. Single parents may be married and not living with their spouse; they may be divorced, widowed, or never married. As with the identification of two parents described above, if a second parent is present and not married to the first, then the child is identified as living with a single parent. The indirect measure of cohabitation, POSSLQ (defined below), attempts to identify these additional potential parents.

COHABITATION

Unmarried partners of the householder can be identified directly through the relationship to householder item collected in the Current Population Survey. Only partners of the householder can be identified, not all unmarried partners. This measurement of unmarried partners produces results below that in other data collections. The reasons for this are numerous, and include the mode of survey administration, question design, and other sources of bias in response and nonresponse.

An indirect measure of cohabitation is Persons of the Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters (POSSLQ). This is a household type defined by household composition. POSSLQ households are defined by the presence of only two people over age 15 in the household who are opposite sex, not related, and not married. There can be any number of people under age 15 in the household. For this reason, the percentage of children living in POSSLQ households should be calculated on the universe of children under age 15 for each characteristic.

structure and affecting the relative sizes of age groups. Barring significant changes in fertility or migration, we can expect the ratio of children to the elderly to continue to drop for some time as the baby-boom cohort continues to move to the 65 and over age group. This change may have important implications for the resources available to children.[2]

[2] Basic counts of children by race, ethnicity, sex, and age are available in the detailed Internet tables published with this report.

Children in Families

In 2002, 69 percent of children lived with two parents, 23 percent lived with only their mother, 5 percent lived with only their father, and another 4 percent lived in households with neither parent present (see Table 1 and Definition Box 1). Among children who lived with two parents, the vast majority (98 percent) were children of the householder; the remaining children who lived with two parents were grandchildren, other relatives, or nonrelatives of the householder. Grandparents play a significant role in the family households of many children even when a parent is present. Ten percent of children who lived with a single mother were grandchildren of the householder, compared with 8 percent of children who lived with single fathers. When children lived in households without either of their parents, very often (44 percent of children) they were living in their grandparent's household. Children who were

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Table 2.
Children Under 15 Living With Single Mothers and Fathers in Cohabiting-Couple Households: March 2002[1]

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Total	In an unmarried-partner household[2]	Not in an unmarried-partner household[2]
All children under 15			
Total	16,457	2,570	13,887
In a POSSLQ[3] household	2,466	2,101	365
Not in a POSSLQ[3] household	13,991	469	13,522
Children under 15 living with single mothers			
Total	13,759	1,588	12,171
In a POSSLQ /3 household	1,562	1,314	248
Not in a POSSLQ[3]household	12,197	274	11,923
Children under 15 living with single fathers			
Total	2,698	982	1,716
In a POSSLQ /3 household	904	787	117
Not in a POSSLQ[3] household	1,794	195	1,599

[1]The universe for this table is children under age 15 living with single parents. Those not living with single parents, those who are householders, subfamily reference people or their spouses, and those in group quarters are excluded from this table.

[2]Unmarried-partner households are households in which the child's parent is either the householder with an unmarried partner or the unmarried partner of the householder. These households are "directly" identified from the relationship to householder item on the survey.

[3]POSSLQ (Persons of the Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters) is defined by the presence of only two people 15 years and over in the household who are opposite sex, not related, and not married. There can be any number of people under age 15 in the household. This is an "indirect" measure of cohabitation, derived from household composition.

Note: Data based on the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/tp63rv.pdf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

living with their grandparents are examined in more detail later in this report.

Single-Parent Families and Cohabiting-Parent Families

In some cases, the "single-parent" household is not really a single-adult household. As described in Definition Box 1, single parent means that the child's identified parent is not married and living with his or her spouse. This single parent may be married but the spouse is absent (including separated), widowed, divorced, or never married. The single parent may be cohabiting with another adult. Since 1995, the CPS has been able to identify whether a person was the unmarried partner of the householder.

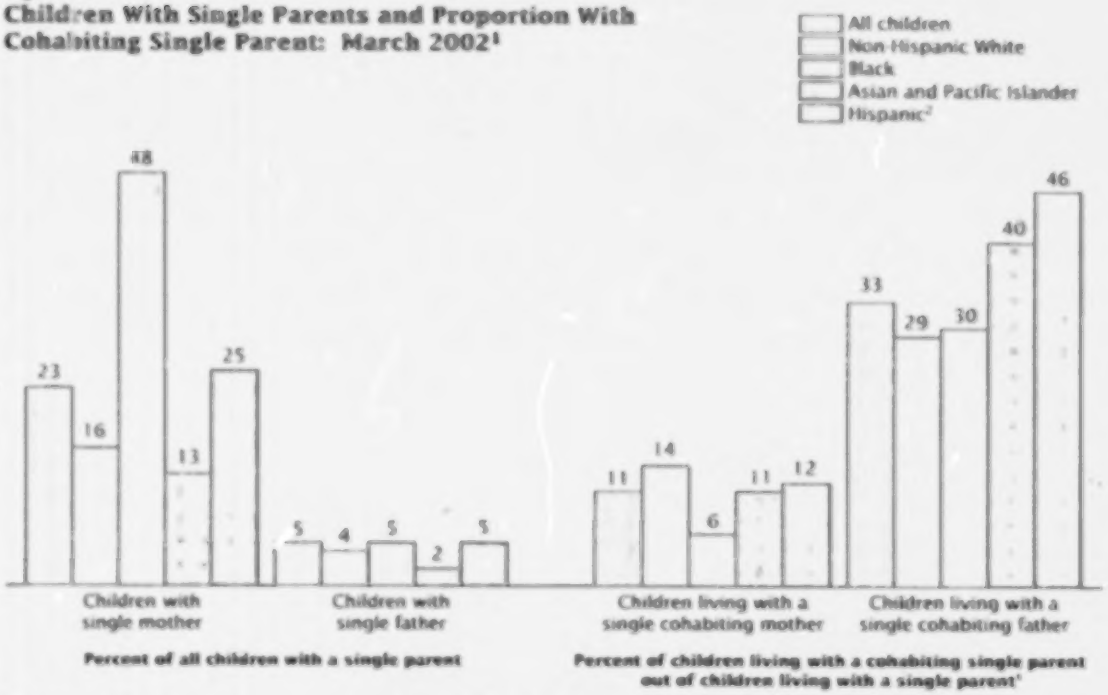
Determining whether single parents were raising their children alone is a more difficult analysis. Data from the CPS do not include enough information about the actual interrelationships among household members to provide a definitive answer. However, for children living in an unmarried-partner household where their parent is either the householder or the unmarried partner, the assumption that both the householder and the partner have some parenting role is probably reasonable. This direct measure of cohabitation is a good indicator of the presence of a second "parent."[3]

Cohabiting-couple households can also be identified indirectly using a definition developed at the Census Bureau in the 1970s. Households can be identified as those that have "People of the Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters" (POSSLQ) who are presumed to be living as unmarried partners. Because the definition excludes children 15 to 17 years old, only children under 15 years are considered when looking at the proportion of children in POSSLQ households. This indirect measure compares reasonably well with the direct measure in households with children present.

Table 2 presents the overlap between children living in these two types of households. There was not a perfect agreement, but 82 percent of children under 15 identified as living with a single parent and his or her unmarried partner were also identified as living in a POSSLQ household. The reverse also has high agreement: 85 percent of children living in POSSLQ households

[3] See *Counting Couples: Improving Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage, and Cohabitation Data in the Federal Statistical System.* Highlights from a National Workshop, December 13 and 14, 2001, Sponsored by: The Data Collection Committee of the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. Contact the Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch of NICHD for print copies of this document. Phone: 301-496-1174. Also see the Forum's Web site: *www.childstats.gov.*

Figure 1.
Children With Single Parents and Proportion With Cohabiting Single Parent: March 2002[1]



[1] The parent is the householder or partner in an unmarried partner household. Single means the parent has no spouse in the household.
[2] People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

were in households where the second adult was specifically identified as the unmarried partner of the householder. Situations where the two measures do not agree arise when there are other people over age 15 in the unmarried partner households, and the cases where the parent identifies himself or herself or the other adult as a roommate, housemate, or other nonrelative of the householder in POSSLQ households.

In 2002, 16.5 million children were living with a single mother, but 1.8 million (11 percent) lived in a household with their mother and her unmarried partner. Children who lived with a single father (3.3 million) were much more likely to be sharing the household with his unmarried partner, (33 percent or 1.1 million children). This finding is consistent with other research, which shows that fathers are more likely to live with a cohabiting partner than are mothers.[4] Measuring this same likelihood using the POSSLQ definition yields the same results. Among the 13.8 million children under 15 years old who were living with their mother but not with their father in 2002, 1.6 million (11 percent) were living in a household with their mother and a nonmarried, nonrelated adult male. Children under 15 years old who were living with their father only (2.7 million) were much more likely to be sharing their household with a non-married, nonrelated adult female (33 percent or 904,000 children).

Figure 1 shows dramatic differences by race and Hispanic origin[5] in the proportion of children with single mothers, single fathers, and single parents who were living with an unmarried partner. Children were more than four times as likely to live with a single mother (23 percent) than to live with a single father (5 percent). Children living with a single parent

[4] See Lynne M. Casper and Suzanne M. Bianchi. (2002). *Continuity & Change in The American Family*. Table 5.1 – page 131. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, Inc.

[5] People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for the American Indian and Alaska Native population are not shown in this report because of the small sample size in the Current Population Survey, March 2002. Based on the March 2002 Current Population Survey, 4 percent of Black children and 3 percent of Asian and Pacific Islander children are of Hispanic origin. These percentages are not significantly different.

were three times as likely to have their father cohabiting (33 percent) than their mother (11 percent). These large differences by the gender of the parent persist for all of the groups shown in Figure 1.

Almost half (48 percent) of Black children were living with a single mother — when those children living with a single father (5 percent) are included, over half (53 percent) of Black children were living with a single parent. A larger proportion of Hispanic children lived with a single mother than non-Hispanic White children and Asian and Pacific Islander children, 25 percent versus 16 percent and 13 percent, respectively. Similarly, a greater percentage of Hispanic children lived with a single father than non-Hispanic White children and Asian and Pacific Islander children, 5 percent versus 4 percent and 2 percent, respectively.

For children living with a single mother, 6 percent of Black children and 14 percent of non-Hispanic White children also had the mother's partner present. For children living with a single father, about 30 percent of both non-Hispanic White children and Black children and 46 percent of Hispanic children lived with a single father and his unmarried-partner. Across race groups, children living with a single father were much more likely to be living with their father and his partner, compared to the proportion of children living with a single mother who also lived with her unmarried partner.[6]

[6] For the single mothers: The 14 percent for non-Hispanic White, 6 percent for Black, and 12 percent for Hispanic were each not significantly different from the 11 percent for Asian and Pacific Islander. For the single fathers: The 29 percent for non-Hispanic White, 30 percent for Black, and 46 percent for Hispanic were each not significantly different from the 40 percent for Asian and Pacific Islander. The 29 percent for non-Hispanic White was not significantly different from the 30 percent for Black. The 30 percent for Black was not significantly different from the 40 percent for Asian and Pacific Islander.

CHILDREN AND CORESIDENT GRANDPARENTS

Table 3 shows that children live with a grandparent for a variety of reasons. First, when children's parents need help or are unable to live with their own children, grandparents are an important resource for assistance and care. Second, many children live with their grandparents because the grandparents themselves need assistance. CPS data are not explicit about the direction of assistance. Grandparents are assumed to be providing the assistance if they are the householders, while they are believed to be receiving assistance when they are living in someone else's (usually their child's) household.

Family Types

In 2002, 5.6 million children were living in households with a grandparent present (8 percent of all children). Ten percent of children under 6 years old lived with a coresident grandparent, compared with 7 percent of children aged 6 to 11, and 6 percent of children aged 12 to 17. The majority of children living with grandparents lived in households where the grandparent was the householder (3.7 million). Although these children were using housing resources provided by grandparents, 65 percent (2.4 million) had at least one parent in the household.

Another distinct group of children lived in their parent's household with a grandparent present (1.8 million). In these households, the grandparent is probably not primarily responsible for the children, but he or she may still be providing assistance of some kind, such as childcare services. The remaining category identifies children in households where neither the grandparent nor the parent was the householder; only 118,000 children lived in this household structure.

In 2002, Black children were more likely than children in other groups to live in single-parent families. They are also more likely to live in their grandparent's household: 9 percent, compared with 6 percent for Hispanic children, 4 percent for non-Hispanic White children, and 3 percent for Asian and Pacific Islander children. Regardless of the presence of parents, two-thirds of Black children living in their grandparent's household were living with only one grandparent, their grandmother. For all other race/ethnicity groups,[7] living in the grandparent's household with both a grandmother and a grandfather present was the most common type of grandparent-grandchild coresidence, for both children living with their parents and those whose parents were not present.

Among children who were living in their parent's household with at least one grandparent present, most often it was with only their grandmother (two-thirds for each of the race groups, except Black children, three-quarters of whom lived with only their grandmother when in their parent's household with a grandparent present). This is not surprising, as men have higher mortality rates than women, and widowed women may turn to their adult children for care. The small group of children who lived with both a grandparent and a parent, neither one of whom was the householder, may reflect children living in extended households. In

[7] The percentage of Asian and Pacific Islander children with parents present in grandmother-owned households was not significantly different from the percentage in grandfather owned households, and the percentage of Hispanic children with parents absent in households owned by both grandparents was not significantly different from the percentage in grandmother-owned households.

Table 3.
Characteristics of Children Who Coreside With Grandparents by Presence of Parents: March 2002[1]

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Total	With grandparents present													
			Grandparent is householder								Grandparent is not householder				
				Parent present				No parents present				Parent is householder				
	Total	Total with grandparents	Total in grandparent's household	Total	Grandmother and grandfather	Grandmother only	Grandfather only	Total	Grandmother and grandfather	Grandmother only	Grandfather only	Total	Grandmother and grandfather	Grandmother only	Grandfather only	Parent is not householder
Total	72,321	5,601	3,683	2,409	1,204	1,021	184	1,274	614	591	69	1,801	258	1,231	312	116
Age of child																
Under 6 years old	23,363	2,339	1,644	1,309	721	506	82	335	171	138	26	635	109	393	133	61
6 to 11 years old	24,623	1,770	1,118	656	307	293	56	462	240	201	21	619	90	428	101	33
12 to 17 years old	24,335	1,493	920	444	175	223	46	476	202	252	22	547	59	410	78	25
Race and ethnicity of child[2]																
White	56,276	3,674	2,418	1,701	947	601	153	717	429	245	43	1,177	180	784	213	81
Non-Hispanic	44,235	2,408	1,671	1,130	624	405	101	541	332	169	40	707	88	481	138	30
Black	11,646	1,445	1,077	576	178	381	17	501	153	327	21	339	27	253	59	29
Asian and Pacific Islander	3,223	361	89	67	44	16	7	22	19	3	-	262	48	176	38	9
Hispanic (of any race)	12,817	1,341	787	591	328	210	53	196	101	87	8	504	93	324	87	51
Presence of parents																
Two parents	49,666	1,706	477	477	255	155	67	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	1,217	164	840	213	12
Mother only	16,473	2,249	1,658	1,658	807	753	98	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	503	74	337	92	89
Father only	3,297	373	275	275	142	114	19	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	81	21	53	7	17
Neither parent	2,885	1,273	1,274	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	1,274	614	591	69	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	-
Family income																
Under $15,000	9,516	611	508	178	33	132	13	330	58	256	15	88	-	78	10	14
$15,000 to $29,999	12,094	995	704	389	111	254	24	315	138	154	23	270	28	190	52	21
$30,000 to $49,999	15,140	1,278	911	626	249	307	70	285	161	113	11	330	66	217	47	37
$50,000 to $74,999	14,414	1,190	718	556	298	218	40	162	119	38	54	56	61	305	90	16
$75,000 and over	21,157	1,527	840	659	513	110	36	181	137	30	14	657	103	441	113	30
Poverty status																
Below 100 percent of poverty	12,239	988	743	362	106	217	39	381	98	270	13	217	24	158	35	28
100 to 199 percent of poverty	15,686	1,512	1,088	696	287	357	52	392	174	192	26	382	59	256	67	42
200 percent of poverty and above	44,396	3,101	1,851	1,350	810	447	93	501	342	129	30	1,203	176	817	210	48
Health insurance coverage																
Covered by health insurance	63,907	4,293	2,673	1,856	914	802	140	817	378	394	45	1,539	213	1,053	273	81
Not covered by health insurance	8,414	1,309	1,008	551	289	219	43	457	236	197	24	262	46	177	39	38
Household receives public assistance																
Receives assistance	3,372	506	417	202	94	98	10	215	59	146	10	60	2	46	12	28
Does not receive assistance	68,949	5,096	3,265	2,206	1,110	923	173	1,059	555	445	59	1,741	256	1,185	300	92
Household receives food stamps																
Receives food stamps	7,873	908	702	467	174	252	41	235	48	178	9	159	9	128	22	45
Does not receive food stamps	64,448	4,694	2,980	1,942	1,029	770	143	1,038	565	413	60	1,642	249	1,103	290	73
Household tenure																
Owns/buying	48,542	4,091	2,723	1,818	1,019	647	152	905	528	329	48	1,304	202	870	232	64
Rents	22,512	1,448	925	564	165	368	31	361	84	257	20	474	51	349	74	49
No cash rent	1,266	62	34	27	20	6	1	7	2	5	-	22	5	11	6	5
Type of residence[3]																
Central city, in MSA	20,971	2,042	1,376	893	346	487	60	483	189	279	15	602	104	409	89	63
Outside central city, in MSA	38,194	2,641	1,577	1,098	647	367	84	479	260	186	33	1,022	137	708	177	42
Outside MSA	13,155	919	727	417	211	167	39	310	165	125	20	178	17	114	47	15

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. X Not applicable

[1]All people under age 18, excluding group quarters, householders, subfamily reference people, and their spouses.

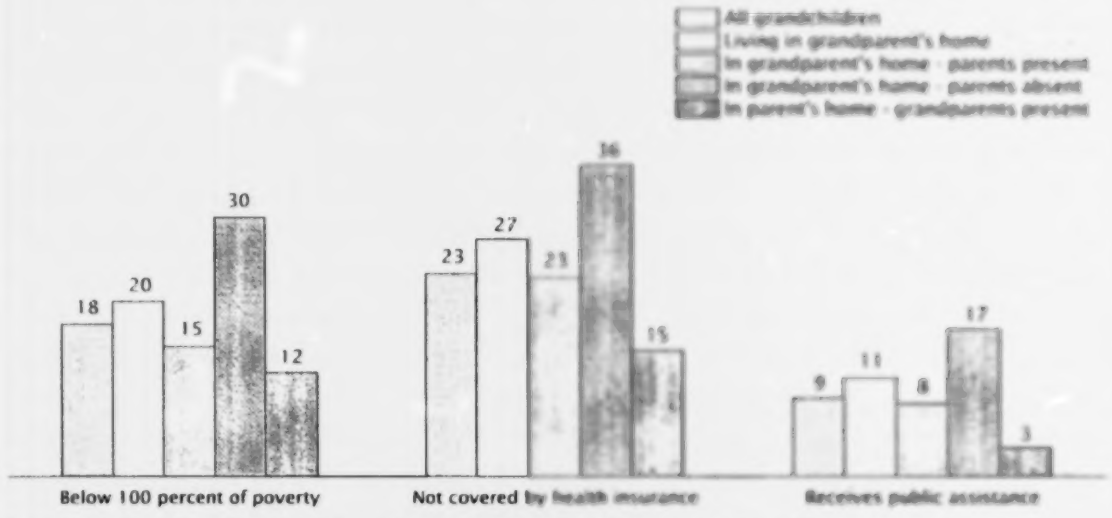
[2]Data are not shown separately for the American Indian and Alaska Native population because of the small sample size in the Current Population Survey in March 2002.

[3]"MSA" refers to Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Note: Data based on the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p63rv.pdf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

Figure 2.
Percent of Grandchildren in Poverty, Not Covered by Health Insurance, and Receiving Public Assistance by Selected Living Arrangements: March 2002



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey

this group, Hispanic children were over-represented (43 percent) relative to their distribution in all households with grandparents (24 percent). Hispanic children also composed 36 percent of the 258,000 children living in households that were maintained by their parents and which had both a grandmother and a grandfather.[9]

Table 3 also illustrates differences in parent-child family types by whether the child lived in the grandparent's or the parent's home. Overwhelmingly, when grandchildren lived in the grandparent's home with at least one parent, it was the mother. In comparison, when a grandparent lived in the parent's home, the majority of the time the grandchildren were living with both parents present. This pattern lends support to the idea that grandparents may offer housing assistance to their own children and grandchildren in times of marital disruption or when the child's father is absent. On the other hand, when one or both grandparents lived in a married-couple household with their grandchild, it may indicate that two incomes were needed to support the grandparents or, in the case of very elderly or infirm parents, the presence of a second parent may facilitate the grandparent's care.

Economic Characteristics of Grandparent-Grandchild Households

Figure 2 compares three measures of economic hardship by selected grandparent-grandchild coresidence arrangements. Children living in a grandparent's household without a parent present were twice as likely to be in families that were below the poverty level (30 percent) than was the case for children living with both grandparents and a parent — (15 percent of children living with a grandparent and parent in the grandparent's household and 12 percent of children who lived with a grandparent in their parent's household were in poverty).[10] Children were also at the greatest risk of not being covered by health insurance when they resided in their grandparent's household without a parent present (36 percent). Among children living with a grandparent, those living in their parent's household had the lowest percent lacking health insurance coverage, 15 percent.

Following the same trend, children in their grandparent's household regardless of the presence of parents were about three times as likely to be receiving public

[9] The 43 percent of Hispanic children living with their grandparents and parents, neither of which are householders, is not significantly different from the 36 percent of Hispanic children with parents and grandparents and whose parents are householders.

[10] The 12 percent of children in poverty who lived with a grandparent in their parent's household was not significantly different from the 15 percent of children in poverty who lived with a grandparent and a parent in their grandparent's household.

Table 4.
Children by Their Parents' Current Labor Force Status: March 2002[1]

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Number	Percent of all children	Percent of children by presence of parents
Total	72,321	100.0	100.0
Two parents	49,668	68.7	100.0
Both parents in the labor force	31,007	42.9	62.4
Father only in the labor force	14,969	20.7	30.1
Mother only in the labor force	2,169	3.0	4.4
Neither parent in the labor force	1,520	2.1	3.1
Mother only	16,473	22.8	100.0
In the labor force	12,708	17.6	77.1
Not in the labor force	3,767	5.2	22.9
Father only	3,297	4.6	100.0
In the labor force	2,925	4.0	88.7
Not in the labor force	372	0.5	11.3
Neither parent	2,885	4.0	100.0

[1] All people under age 18, excluding group quarters, householders, subfamily reference people, and their spouses.

Note: Data based on the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p60-2rv.pdf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

assistance (11 percent) as children in their parent's household with a grandparent present (3 percent). Children living in their grandparent's household without parents present were twice as likely to receive public assistance as children who were in their grandparent's household but had parents present, 17 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

These indicators of economic hardship strongly suggest that, in households maintained by parents, it is most likely that resources and assistance flow from the parents to the grandparents. Further, these results show that parents are the primary source of well-being for children. Even when parents and children live in a grandparent's household, parents often contribute to the household economy and provide much of the care for their children. Children living in their grandparent's household without a parent present are at a distinct economic disadvantage, often stretching their grandparent's financial and personal resources.

PARENTS, CHILDREN, AND THE LABOR FORCE

Parental Labor Force Status

Most children live in families where one or both of their parents are in the labor force (88 percent in 2002). Parental participation in the labor force provides a role model for children and the economic resources the family needs. Also, employers are often the source of health insurance coverage, as well as other child-related benefits, like childcare subsidies. In 2002, 97 percent (48 million) of children living with two parents had at least one parent in the labor force, and 62 percent (31 million) were living in families with two parents in the labor force (see Table 4). Of the 3.3 million children who lived with only their father, 89 percent (2.9 million) lived in families with the father in the labor force. Among children who lived with only their mother (16 million), 77 percent — or 13 million — lived in families with the mother in the labor force.

Stay-at-Home Parents

Recently, much interest has focused on children who have "stay-at-home" parents. This term typically describes a family situation where a father or a mother chooses to stay home to care for the children while the other spouse is employed. A 1993 estimate of 2 million stay-at-home dads, a figure that has been widely publicized,[*] was based on the number of fathers providing the primary childcare arrangements for their children under 15 years old while their spouses were at work. This number, however, includes 1.6 million dads who actually were employed.[**] This report presents estimates of the number of children cared for by stay-at-home dads and moms based not on the parents'

[*] See, for example, reports on the following Web sites (*www.babycenter.com*, and *www.dadstayhome.com*) and in the media (Washington Post, etc.)

[**] See Lynne Casper, (1997). *My Daddy Takes Care of Me! Fathers as Care Providers*. Current Population Reports, P70-59 *www.census.gov/prod/3/97pubs/p70-59.pdf* and PPL-53 (U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC., Table 5).

Table 5.
Children Under Age 15 in Two-Parent Families With a Stay-At-Home Parent: March 2002[1]

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Number	Percent
Total living with two parents	41,802	100.0
Mothers		
In labor force 1 or more weeks last year	28,791	68.9
Out of labor force all 52 weeks last year	13,011	31.1
Primary reason - care for home and family	11,808	28.2
Father in labor force all 52 weeks last year	10,573	25.3
Fathers		
In labor force 1 or more weeks last year	40,314	96.4
Out of labor force all 52 weeks last year	1,487	3.6
Primary reason - care for home and family	336	0.8
Mother in labor force all 52 weeks last year	189	0.5

[1]The universe for this table is children under age 15 living with two parents. Those not living with two parents, those who are householders, subfamily reference people or their spouses, and those in group quarters are excluded from this table.

Note: Data based on the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p63rv.pdf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

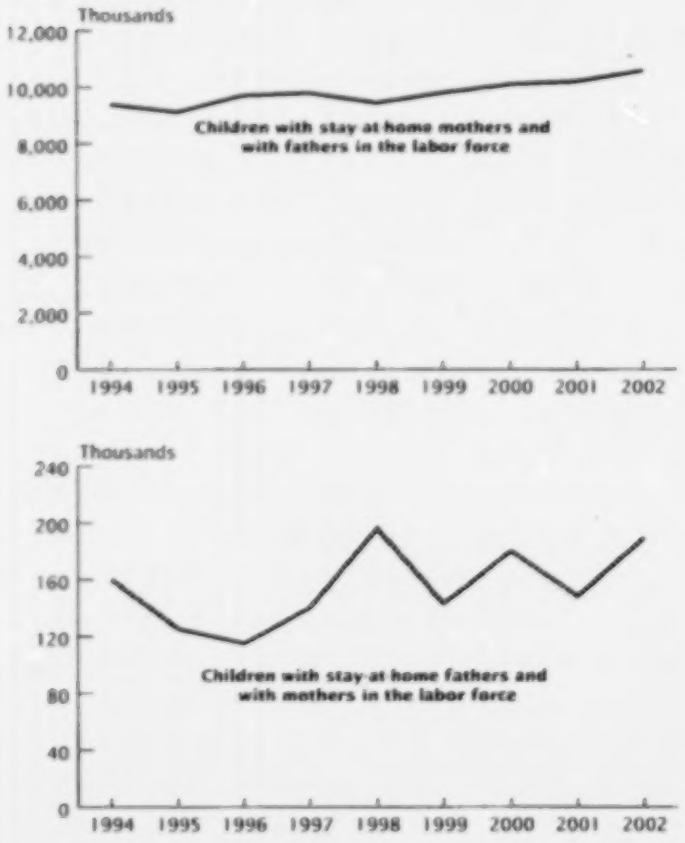
activities as childcare providers but rather on the primary reason they were not in the labor force during the previous year. In this way, a more direct estimate of the number of children who had parents who chose to stay at home to care for them can be obtained.

In 2002, 42 million children under age 15 lived with two parents. Table 5 shows the number of children with a parent out of the labor force for all 52 weeks of the prior year; the number of children with a parent reported being out of the labor force in order to care for home and family; and among children with a parent out of the labor force for the prior year to care for home and family, the number of children whose other parent was in the labor force for the entire previous year. In addition, the time period of the last year rather than the past week was selected to avoid overestimates of stay-at-home parents who were only out of the labor force for relatively short periods of time, such as holidays, temporary illness, or job interruptions. Parents who said that the primary reason why they were out of the labor force was to stay home to care for home and family members are considered to be stay-at-home parents, and the subgroup with the spouse in the labor force is the most common arrangement describing stay-at-home parents.

In March 2002, 1.5 million children under age 15 lived with two parents and their fathers were not in the labor force for the entire previous year. Among this group, 336,000 had fathers who were not in the labor force primarily so they could care for the family. Further limiting the population to children who were living with a father who was not in the labor force in order to care for his family, but whose mothers were in the labor force for all of the previous year revealed a group of 189,000 children under age 15, about 0.5 percent of children under 15 living with two parents. This group comprised 105,000 married fathers with children under 15.

Children in two-parent families are more likely to have mothers than fathers who are out of the labor force. In 2002, 13 million children under age 15 lived with a mother who was out of the labor force for all of the previous year, or about 31 percent of all children under age 15 living with two parents. Of these children, 12 million lived with a mother who was not in the labor force primarily to care for her family. About 11 million, or about 25 percent of children under 15 living with two married parents, lived with a mother who was at home to care for her family while the father was in the labor force for the entire year. Stay-at-home mothers represented 5.2 million married mothers with children under 15 in 2002. In summary, children under age 15 living with both parents were 56 times as likely to live with a stay-at-home mother while their father was in the labor force than they were to live with a stay-at-home father while their mother was in the labor force.

Figure 3.
Children Under Age 15 With Married Parents, One Stay-At-Home and One in the Labor Force: March 2002



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

Figure 3 shows the trends in children living with a stay-at-home parent and a parent who was in the labor force all year. Since 1994, the number of children living with a stay-at-home mother while their fathers were in the labor force significantly increased. This trend does not appear to be the case for children living with stay-at-home fathers while their mother was working. The level in 1994 is not significantly different from the level in 2002. The small number of children living with a stay-at-home father increases the difficulty of measuring trends or changes for this group.

Children in the Labor Force

Although teenage children spend most of their time in school, older teens often have jobs, possibly to gain experience, to assist their families financially, or for other reasons. Table 6 presents basic characteristics of older children in the labor force. Of the 12 million children 15 to 17 years old in 2002, 3 million children or 25 percent were in the labor force. As one would expect, the participation increases over the age range from 9 percent for 15 year olds, to 26 percent for 16 year olds, and to 41 percent for 17 year olds. More female children aged 15 to 17 years (26 percent) than male children of the same ages (24 percent) participated in the labor force.

The unemployment rate is a good measure to use in comparing the abilities of different groups to find employment. High unemployment rates (the percentage unemployed of those in the labor force) imply an unmet demand for jobs and may reflect the need for additional skills and training. For all children aged 15 to 17 years, the unemployment rate in 2002 was 21 percent. For adults 25 to 54 years old, the rate was 5 percent in 2002, indicating that proportionately more teens than working-age adults were looking for work.

Considerable differences existed among the labor force participation rates of children by race and ethnicity. In 2002, 29 percent of non-Hispanic White children aged 15 to 17 years were in the labor force, compared with 17 percent of Black children and Asian and Pacific Islander children, and 19 percent of Hispanic children.[12] Unemployment rates shed more light on these differences. The unemployment rate of non-Hispanic White children (18 percent) was significantly lower than that of Black children (40 percent) or Hispanic children (24 percent).[13] Some additional differences were noted according to a parent's education level. Children whose

[12] The 17 percent of Black and Asian and Pacific Islander children was not significantly different from the 19 percent of Hispanic children.

[13] The Asian and Pacific Islander unemployment rate is not significantly different from that of White Non-Hispanic children.

Table 6.
Children Age 15 to 17 Years by Their Labor Force Status and Selected Characteristics: March 2002[1]

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Total	Not in labor force	In the labor force					
			Total		Employed[2]		Unemployed	
			Number	Percent in the labor force	Full time	Part time	Total	Unemployment rate[4]
Children 15-17 years	11,842	8,853	2,989	25.2	208	2,158	623	20.8
Age of child								
15 years old	3,976	3,606	370	9.3	31	245	94	25.4
16 years old	3,988	2,945	1,042	26.1	61	740	241	23.1
17 years old	3,878	2,302	1,576	40.6	116	1,173	287	18.2
Sex of child								
Male	6,110	4,638	1,472	24.1	129	1,003	340	23.1
Female	5,732	4,214	1,518	26.5	79	1,156	283	18.6
Race and ethnicity of child[3]								
White	9,298	6,746	2,553	27.5	176	1,906	471	18.4
Non-Hispanic	7,679	5,441	2,237	29.1	115	1,726	396	17.7
Black	1,796	1,490	305	17.0	24	160	121	39.7
Asian and Pacific Islander	570	475	95	16.7	6	74	15	15.8
Hispanic (of any race)	1,730	1,400	330	19.1	67	183	80	24.2
Presence of parents								
Two parents	7,864	5,819	2,046	26.0	98	1,597	351	17.2
Mother only	2,714	2,096	618	22.8	41	395	182	29.4
Father only	598	456	142	23.7	11	92	39	27.5
Neither parent	667	482	184	27.6	58	75	51	27.7
Education of parent								
Less than high school	1,704	1,352	352	20.7	56	197	99	28.1
High school degree	3,486	2,608	878	25.2	38	635	205	23.3
Some college	3,115	2,256	860	27.6	35	655	170	19.8
Bachelor's degree or more	2,871	2,155	716	24.9	21	597	98	13.7
No parents present	667	482	184	27.6	58	75	51	27.7
Family income								
Under $15,000	1,263	1,056	205	16.2	32	101	72	35.1
$15,000 to $29,999	1,705	1,364	341	20.0	17	209	115	33.7
$30,000 to $49,999	2,514	1,881	633	25.2	54	429	150	23.7
$50,000 to $74,999	2,342	1,688	653	27.9	46	477	130	19.9
$75,000 and over	4,019	2,862	1,157	28.8	58	943	156	13.5
Type of residence[5]								
Central city, in MSA	3,183	2,518	665	20.9	64	437	164	24.7
Outside central city, in MSA	6,372	4,657	1,715	26.9	104	1,275	336	19.6
Outside MSA	2,288	1,678	610	26.7	40	447	123	20.2

[1]The universe for this table is children age 15 to 17 years. Only the population 15 and over have labor force data recorded for them in the CPS. Children under age 15, householders, subfamily reference people, their spouses, and those in group quarters are excluded from this table.

[2]Full-time employment is 35 hours or more of work in the previous week. Part-time employment is less than 35 hours of work in the previous week.

[3]Data are not shown separately for the American Indian and Alaska Native population because of the small sample size in the Current Population Survey in March 2002.

[4]The unemployment rate is the percent unemployed of the population in the labor force.

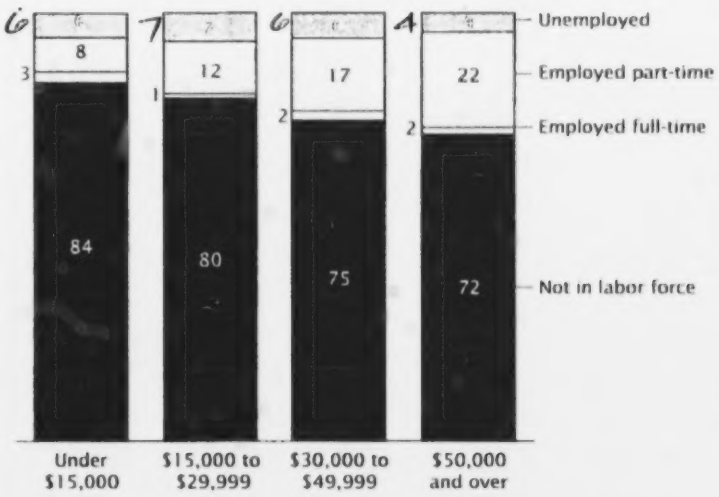
[5]"MSA" refers to Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Note: Data based on the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/tp63rv.pdf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

Figure 4.
Labor Force Status of Children 15 to 17 Years Old by Family Income: March 2002

(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

parent had less than a high school education had the lowest labor force participation rate (21 percent).[14] Children with a parent who had a bachelor's degree or more had the lowest unemployment rate (14 percent).

Family income followed a similar trend: higher proportions of children in the labor force were found in families with higher family income levels. This is not surprising because the income from working children is included in the family's income classification; however, children's incomes rarely account for the majority of the family's income. Only 18 percent of children living in families with income levels under $30,000 were in the labor force, compared with about 28 percent of children in families with incomes of $50,000 or more. The unemployment rate was also lowest at the top of the income range: 14 percent in families with incomes of $75,000 and over. Figure 4 shows these differences by family income. In general, higher participation in the labor force was seen for children in families with higher incomes. Specifically, as family income increased the percentage of children working part time increased substantially.

Income, Poverty, and Public Assistance in Children's Families

Recently the family economies of children's households have been the subject of tremendous attention and research. Some of the more important issues that affect children's economic well-being by the presence or absence of one or both parents are highlighted in Table 7.

In 2002, 30 percent of all children lived in families with incomes below $30,000, and 17 percent of children were in families living below 100 percent of poverty (see Table 7). Five percent of children (about 3.4 million) lived in households that were receiving public assistance, and 11 percent of children (7.9 million) were in households that received food stamps. At the other end of the financial spectrum, 49 percent of children lived in families with incomes of $50,000 per year or more, and 29 percent were in families having incomes of at least $75,000 per year.[15] Most children, 67 percent, were living in housing that was owned or being purchased by the householder.

Significant differences in children's economic situations emerge when family living arrangements are examined. While 30 percent of all children lived in families with incomes less than $30,000 per year, only 15 percent of children in two-parent families fell below that level, compared with 65 percent of children in single-mother families, 45 percent of children in single-father families, and 61 percent of children living in households with neither parent present. At the other end of the income spectrum, 39 percent of children living with two parents were in families with incomes of $75,000 per year or more, compared with 6 percent for children in single-mother families, and 11 percent for both children in single-father families and children with no parents present.

Children living in households without either parent were the most likely to be in families below 100 percent of the poverty threshold (48 percent of children), followed

[14] The unemployment rate for children whose parent had less than a high school diploma was not significantly different from unemployment rate for children whose parent was a high school graduate, or from children living without either parent.

[15] The percentage of children in families with incomes below $30,000 (30 percent) was not significantly different from the percentage in families having incomes of at least $75,000 (29 percent).

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Table 7.
Children's Economic Situation by Family Structure: March 2002[1]

Characteristic	Total	Two parents	Mother only	Father only	Neither parent
NUMBER					
Total	72,321	49,666	16,473	3,297	2,885
Family income					
Under $15,000	9,516	1,993	5,706	559	1,257
$15,000 to $29,999	12,094	5,705	4,933	939	516
$30,000 to $49,999	15,140	10,360	3,328	963	489
$50,000 to $74,999	14,414	12,160	1,493	455	307
$75,000 and over	21,157	19,447	1,013	380	316
Poverty status					
Below 100 percent of poverty	12,239	3,895	6,326	638	1,380
100 to 199 percent of poverty	15,686	9,147	4,949	935	655
200 percent of poverty and above	44,396	36,623	5,199	1,723	851
Household receives public assistance					
Receives assistance	3,372	776	2,101	154	340
Does not receive assistance	68,949	48,889	14,372	3,143	2,545
Household receives food stamps					
Receives food stamps	7,873	2,213	4,813	418	430
Does not receive food stamps	64,448	47,453	11,660	2,879	2,455
Household tenure					
Owns/buying	48,542	38,362	6,547	1,808	1,825
Rents	22,512	10,366	9,689	1,444	1,012
No cash rent	1,266	938	237	44	48
PERCENT					
Total	100.0	68.7	22.8	4.6	4.0
Family income					
Under $15,000	100.0	20.9	60.0	5.9	13.2
$15,000 to $29,999	100.0	47.2	40.8	7.8	4.3
$30,000 to $49,999	100.0	68.4	22.0	6.4	3.2
$50,000 to $74,999	100.0	84.4	10.4	3.2	2.1
$75,000 and over	100.0	91.9	4.8	1.8	1.5
Poverty status					
Below 100 percent of poverty	100.0	31.8	51.7	5.2	11.3
100 to 199 percent of poverty	100.0	58.3	31.6	6.0	4.2
200 percent of poverty and above	100.0	82.5	11.7	3.9	1.9
Household receives public assistance					
Receives assistance	100.0	23.0	62.3	4.6	10.1
Does not receive assistance	100.0	70.9	20.8	4.6	3.7
Household receives food stamps					
Receives food stamps	100.0	28.1	61.1	5.3	5.5
Does not receive food stamps	100.0	73.6	18.1	4.5	3.8
Household tenure					
Owns/buying	100.0	79.0	13.5	3.7	3.8
Rents	100.0	46.0	43.0	6.4	4.5
No cash rent	100.0	74.1	18.7	3.5	3.8

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

[1]All people under age 18, excluding group quarters, householders, subfamily reference people, and their spouses.

Note: Data based on the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://*www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/tp63rv.pdf*.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

closely by children living in single-mother families — 38 percent of these children were below the poverty threshold. Children who were living with single mothers and those living without either parent were also most likely to be in households receiving public assistance (about 12 percent of children each), compared with 5 percent for children living with only their father, and 2 percent for children living with two married parents. Food stamp receipt followed a similar trend: 29 percent of children who lived with a single mother, about 15 percent of children who lived in households without parents and 13 percent of children who lived with a single father, and 4 percent of children who lived with both parents.[16] The majority of children living with a single mother lived in rented housing, 59 percent, compared with 44 percent of children with a single father, 35 percent of children with no parents, and 21 percent of children living with two parents.

FOREIGN-BORN CHILDREN AND CHILDREN OF FOREIGN-BORN PARENTS

Demographic Characteristics

The foreign-born population of the United States has risen dramatically since 1970.[17] These immigrants have come largely from Latin America and Asia, increasing the diversity of children's cultural backgrounds and the languages they speak.[18] Children with foreign-born parents may need additional resources at school and at home in order to progress successfully in school and to transition to adulthood.

In 2002, 14 million children lived with at least one foreign-born parent, representing 19 percent of all children (see Table 8). About 2.7 million of these children were themselves foreign born. Native children with at least one foreign-born parent composed the largest segment of this population (12 million). More than one-half of all children with foreign-born parents were of Hispanic origin (7.8 million), while another 2.5 million were Asian and Pacific Islanders.[19]

As mentioned earlier, one of the more important measures of children's resources is the presence of parents. Children who lived with foreign-born parents were better off on the whole than their counterparts who lived with native parents. Eighty-one percent of children living with foreign-born parents were living with two parents, significantly more than native children living with two native parents (69 percent).

The educational level of a child's parent affects their resources and is a strong predictor of their success in school and the nature of their transition to adulthood.[20] Figure 5 presents children's and their parent's nativity status by the parent's education level. This figure shows striking differences in the education of the parent by the parent-child nativity combination. Children with at least one foreign-born parent were much more likely to have a parent with less than a high school diploma than children living with native parents. Native parents of foreign-born children had the highest education: 59 percent had a bachelor's degree or more, while only 27 percent had a high school education or less. This group consisted of a high proportion of children who were adopted by native parents.

Economic Characteristics

Table 8 shows that children with foreign-born parents were more often in families with incomes below $30,000 per year than other children: 35 percent of native children with foreign-born parents and 43 percent of foreign-born children with foreign-born parents, compared with only 20 percent of foreign-born children with native parents and 27 percent of native children with native parents. Children living with neither parent present were even more likely (61 percent) to be in families with incomes below $30,000 than children in any other living arrangement. Poverty status, predictably, followed the same pattern: children with native parents were more likely to be in families at or above 200 percent of poverty, compared with children who lived with at least one foreign-born parent.[21]

Only 65 percent of foreign-born children with at least one foreign-born parent had health insurance, slightly more than the 59 percent of children who were living with

[16] The 15 percent of children who lived in households without parents and received food stamps and 13 percent of children who lived with a single father and received food stamps were not significantly different.

[17] See A. Dianne Schmidley. (2001). *Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2000*, Current Population Reports, P23-206. *www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p23-206.pdf*

[18] See Lisa Lollock. (2001). The *Foreign-Born Population in the United States: March 2000*, Current Population Reports — P20-534. *www.census.gov/prod/2000pubs/p20-534.pdf*

[19] The number of Asian and Pacific Islander children with at least one foreign-born parent is not significantly different from the number of foreign-born children with at least one foreign-born parent.

[20] See Frank F. Furstenberg, JR., J. Brooks-Gunn, and S. Philip Morgan (1987). "Adolescent Mothers and Their Children in Later Life." *Family Planning Perspectives*, Volume 19:4, 142-151. Also see: Dennis P. Hogan and Nan Marie Astone. (1986). "The Transition to Adulthood." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 12:109-30.

[21] The 20 percent of foreign-born children with native parents and the 27 percent of native children with native parents are not significantly different. Additionally, the 77 percent of foreign-born children with native parents at or above 200 percent of poverty and the 66 percent of native children with native parents at or above 200 percent of poverty are not significantly different.

Table 8.
Children's and Parents' Nativity[1] and Selected Characteristics: March 2002[2]

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Total	Children with native parents			Children with at least one foreign-born parent			No parent present
		Total	Native child	Foreign-born child	Total	Native child	Foreign-born child	
Total	72,321	55,264	55,136	128	14,172	11,518	2,654	2,885
Age of child								
Under 6 years	23,363	17,664	17,609	55	4,974	4,613	361	725
6-11 years	24,623	18,801	18,766	35	4,883	3,989	894	938
12-17 years	24,335	18,799	18,761	38	4,314	2,916	1,398	1,221
Race and ethnicity of child[3]								
White	56,276	44,338	44,289	49	10,207	8,341	1,866	1,732
Non-Hispanic	44,235	40,230	40,205	25	2,831	2,376	455	1,174
Black	11,646	9,421	9,415	6	1,269	1027	242	956
Asian and Pacific Islander	3,223	589	516	73	2,533	2,006	527	101
Hispanic (of any race)	12,817	4,435	4,409	26	7,757	6,294	1,463	626
Presence of parents								
Two parents	49,666	38,254	38,172	82	11,411	9,274	2,137	(X)
Mother only	16,473	14,192	14,154	38	2,281	1,862	419	(X)
Father only	3,297	2,817	2,810	7	480	382	98	(X)
Neither parent	2,885	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	2,885
Education of parent								
Less than high school	10,900	5,670	5,665	5	5,229	4,149	1,080	(X)
High school degree	20,871	17,640	17,610	30	3,231	2,676	555	(X)
Some college	19,315	16,982	16,963	19	2,333	2,028	305	(X)
Bachelor's degree or more	18,351	14,973	14,898	75	3,378	2,664	714	(X)
No parents present	2,885	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	2,885
Marital status of parent								
Married spouse present	49,666	38,254	38,172	82	11,411	9,274	2,137	(X)
Married spouse absent	951	646	646	-	306	221	85	(X)
Widowed	857	697	693	4	160	111	49	(X)
Divorced	6,932	6,282	6,264	18	651	532	119	(X)
Separated	2,918	2,305	2,299	6	613	489	124	(X)
Never married	8,111	7,079	7,063	16	1,032	892	140	(X)
No parent present	2,885	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	2,885
Family income								
Under $15,000	9,516	6,411	6,398	13	1,847	1,402	445	1,257
$15,000 to $29,999	12,094	8,281	8,268	13	3,297	2,594	703	516
$30,000 to $49,999	15,140	11,231	11,214	17	3,420	2,750	670	489
$50,000 and over	35,571	29,342	29,257	85	5,606	4,771	835	623
Poverty status								
Below 100 percent of poverty	12,239	7,848	7,835	13	3,011	2,300	711	1,380
100 to 199 percent of poverty	15,686	10,812	10,796	16	4,218	3,336	882	655
200 percent of poverty and above	44,396	36,604	36,506	98	6,942	5,882	1,060	850
Health insurance coverage								
Covered by health insurance	63,907	50,941	50,819	122	11,255	9,534	1,721	1,710
Not covered by health insurance	8,414	4,323	4,317	6	2,916	1,984	932	1,175
Household receives public assistance								
Receives assistance	3,372	2,396	2,390	6	636	514	122	341
Does not receive assistance	68,949	52,869	52,747	122	13,536	11,004	2,532	2,544
Household tenure								
Owns/buying	48,542	39,027	38,925	102	7,690	6,675	1,015	1,825
Rents	22,512	15,215	15,191	24	6,285	4,693	1,592	1,012
No cash rent	1,266	1,022	1,021	1	197	150	47	48
Type of residence[4]								
Central city, in MSA	20,971	14,125	14,083	42	5,802	4,698	1,104	1,044
Outside central city, in MSA	38,194	29,585	29,514	71	7,376	6,015	1,361	1,233
Outside MSA	13,155	11,554	11,539	15	993	805	188	608

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. X Not applicable.

[1]A child living with any foreign-born parents is included in the category for foreign-born parent(s). Children living with a single parent are assigned a category based on the nativity of the coresident parent. Children living with native parents are only living with native parents.

[2]All people under age 18, excluding group quarters, householders, subfamily reference people, and their spouses.

[3]Data are not shown separately for the American Indian and Alaska Native population because of the small sample size in the Current Population Survey in March 2002.

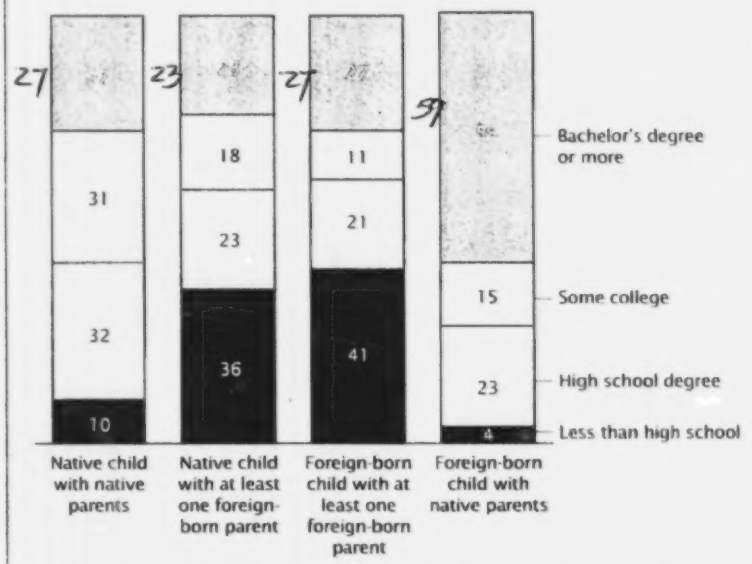
[4]"MSA" refers to Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Note: Data based on the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/tp63rv.pdf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

Figure 5.
Children's and Parents' Nativity by Parent's Education for Children Living With At Least One Parent: March 2002[1]

(In percent)



[1] Children with any foreign-born parents are included with foreign-born parent, children with native parents only are with native parents.
Education is the mother's, if not available, the father's is used.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

no parents. Native children with at least one foreign-born parent were better off, with 83 percent covered by health insurance, but they still fell short of the 92-percent coverage for native children with native parents. No significant differences were found in receipt of public assistance by each nativity type (about 4 percent), but all were less than the 12 percent recorded for children living with neither parent present.

Children with at least one foreign-born parent were also less likely to be in households that were being bought or were owned (54 percent compared with 71 percent of children with native parents), and were more likely to live in central cities of metropolitan areas than were children with native parents, 41 percent versus 26 percent, respectively. This distribution is consistent with migration patterns that involve movement through ethnic enclaves[22] and the tendency of many immigrants to live in central cities initially. Additionally, the finding reflects the impact of parental home ownership on the wealth of subsequent generations, as a house is often the largest source of intergenerational wealth transmission.

[22] See Douglas S. Massey, et. al. (1994). "An Evaluation of International Migration Theory: The North American Case." *Population and Development Review*, Volume 20:4, 699-751. Also see: Mary M. Kritz and June Marie Nogel. (1994). "Nativity Concentration and Internal Migration among the Foreign-Born." *Demography*, Volume 31:3, 509-524.

Children who were foreign born but living with native parents represented a very small proportion of all children, 0.2 percent, and were distinct from other children in a number of ways. Many of these children may have been adopted from overseas, and would be more likely to be living with parents who had more substantial financial resources. In addition, 57 percent were Asian and Pacific Islander children, a characteristic also noted in Census 2000 data among foreign-born adopted children who were living with native parents.[23] The characteristics shown in these data are consistent with data for children living in families with more resources. Among foreign-born children with native parents, 66 percent lived in families in the highest income category ($50,000 or more per year), and 59 percent lived with a parent with a bachelor's degree or more.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

A key indicator of children's well-being, their health, is not measured directly by the Current Population Survey. (The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) collects detailed data on the health status of the population.[24]) The CPS does provide an indicator of accessibility to health resources, namely, health insurance coverage for children. Children's health insurance is related to the presence of parents and their financial resources, as well as public assistance programs designed to provide a safety net for children, such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

[23] See the upcoming Census 2000 – Census Brief on Adopted and Stepchildren by Rose Kreider.

[24] See data and report products from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) at *www.cdc.gov/nchs*.

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Table 9 presents data on children's health insurance coverage by the presence of parents. Overall, 88 percent of children were covered by health insurance. Ninety-one percent of children living with two parents were covered, compared with 86 percent and 82 percent of children living with single mothers and single fathers, respectively. Remarkably, 59 percent of children living in households with neither parent present were covered by health insurance.

There was no significant difference between the health insurance coverage of children who lived with a single father or children who lived with a single mother regardless of whether their parent was living with an unmarried partner. A single mother's marital status also influenced the health insurance coverage of her children. Children living with a divorced mother had the highest coverage rates of children living with a single mother, 89 percent. There were no significant differences between health insurance coverage by marital status for single fathers.

Children were more likely to be covered by health insurance if their parent (see Definition Box 1.) was a college graduate than if their parent had less than a high school education. About 96 percent of children whose parent had a bachelor's degree or more were covered. As the amount of education declined, so did the proportion of children who were covered, dropping to 75 percent for children with a parent who had less than a high school degree.

For children in all types of living arrangements, health coverage increased as family income increased. However, children living in households that were receiving public assistance were actually more likely to be covered by health insurance than children who were in households that did not, probably because participation in public assistance programs is often linked with eligibility for some type of health insurance safety net for children in low-income families.

SUMMARY

This report presents a series of basic indicators of children's well-being, their living arrangements, and their family characteristics. Based on the information shown in this report, children living with two parents were consistently more economically advantaged than children in other types of living arrangements. The persistent and widespread nature of this effect warrants its restatement although it is not a new finding. Even among children living with two parents, 9 percent lacked health insurance, 8 percent were in families living below the poverty level, and 4 percent lived in households that received food stamps.

Children in two-parent families generally had access to more financial resources and greater amounts of parental time. They also were more likely to participate in extracurricular activities, progress more steadily in school, and have more supervision over their activities such as television watching.[25] The presence of two parents continues to be one of the most important factors in children's lives.

Additional information about children is available from other data sources on many of the topics presented in this report, as well as on characteristics and measures not presented here. The Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics is a good source of information on federal contacts and data sources related to children and their well-being.[26]

SOURCE OF THE DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey is the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included if there is at least one civilian adult living in the household. (Starting in 2001, the Annual Demographic Supplement includes some data collected in February and April; see the Current Population Survey Technical Paper 63RV.)[27] The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized population in Census 2000).

Two significant changes were made to the processing of March 2001 and later Current Population Survey Annual Demographic Supplements (ADS) that affect the estimates contained in this report. The first change was the implementation of population controls based on the 2000 Census of Population and Housing, replacing those based on the 1990 Census

[25] See Jason Fields, Kristin Smith, Loretta Bass, Terry Lugaila. (2001). *A Child's Day: Home, School, and Play (Selected Indicators of Child Well-Being).* Current Population Reports, P70-68. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC. *www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/p70-68.pdf*

[26] See Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2002.* Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Also see the Forum's website: *www.childstats.gov/*

[27] See the Current Population Survey Technical Paper 63RV, *Design and Methodology*, TP63RV, Washington DC, March 2002 *www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/tp63rv.pdf*

Table 9.
Children's Health Insurance Coverage by Presence of Parents and Selected Characteristics: March 2002[1]

(In thousands and percent)

Characteristic	All children		Two parents		Mother only		Father only		Neither parent	
	Total	Percent covered by health insurance	Total	Percent covered by health insurance	Total	Percent covered by health insurance	Total	Percent covered by health insurance	Total	Percent covered by health insurance
Total	72,321	88.4	49,686	91.3	16,473	85.8	3,297	82.2	2,865	59.3
Age of child										
Under 6 years	23,363	89.3	16,358	92.0	5,139	86.3	1,141	81.4	725	62.3
6-11 years	24,623	88.8	16,922	91.2	5,755	87.1	1,007	83.5	939	61.4
12-17 years	24,335	87.1	16,386	90.8	5,579	84.0	1,149	81.7	1,222	55.8
Race and ethnicity of child[2]										
White	56,276	89.0	41,944	91.5	10,052	85.2	2,548	83.8	1,732	60.5
Non-Hispanic	44,235	92.7	34,011	94.7	7,124	88.4	1,926	88.0	1,174	67.4
Black	11,646	86.2	4,481	91.5	5,605	87.8	605	77.4	956	57.3
Asian and Pacific Islander	3,273	88.4	2,637	90.6	419	85.0	65	78.5	102	50.0
Hispanic (of any race)	12,817	76.0	8,338	77.9	3,212	78.1	641	71.3	626	45.5
Presence of siblings										
None	14,653	86.4	7,937	91.5	4,667	83.1	1,271	81.8	818	61.7
One sibling	29,498	90.9	20,931	92.9	5,915	87.8	1,177	82.1	475	63.2
Two siblings	18,436	88.6	13,209	91.1	3,772	87.6	591	81.7	863	58.2
Three siblings	6,965	85.1	4,943	88.6	1,358	82.9	211	83.4	454	51.8
Four siblings	2,132	84.1	1,480	84.9	482	86.4	24	100.0	137	64.2
Five or more siblings	1,596	78.9	1,167	81.8	268	78.7	23	91.3	138	52.2
Unmarried-partner household[3]										
Parent is not householder or partner	69,441	88.6	49,686	91.3	14,674	86.1	2,216	83.5	2,865	59.3
Parent is householder or partner	2,880	81.9	(X)	(X)	1,799	83.4	1,081	79.5	(X)	(X)
Parent is householder	2,452	82.7	(X)	(X)	1,430	85.0	1,022	79.5	(X)	(X)
Parent is partner	428	77.8	(X)	(X)	369	77.5	59	79.7	(X)	(X)
POSSLQ household[4]										
Not a POSSLQ household	57,826	89.0	41,802	91.3	12,197	86.3	1,795	83.8	2,033	61.3
POSSLQ household	2,652	81.7	(X)	(X)	1,562	85.4	904	79.4	186	60.8
Out of universe: child 15 to 17 years old	11,842	86.9	7,884	91.3	2,714	83.8	598	81.4	647	52.5
Education of parent										
Less than high school	10,900	75.4	6,528	73.5	3,642	79.6	732	70.9	(X)	(X)
High school degree	20,871	89.0	13,573	90.8	5,969	86.1	1,329	83.7	(X)	(X)
Some college	19,315	92.2	13,552	94.2	4,925	87.7	838	86.2	(X)	(X)
Bachelor's degree or more	18,351	95.9	16,015	96.5	1,938	91.6	398	89.4	(X)	(X)
No parents present	2,865	59.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	2,865	59.3
Marital status of parent										
Married spouse present	49,686	91.3	49,686	91.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Married spouse absent	951	75.9	(X)	(X)	787	75.5	164	78.0	(X)	(X)
Widowed	857	79.8	(X)	(X)	720	80.8	137	73.7	(X)	(X)
Divorced	6,932	89.4	(X)	(X)	5,593	88.8	1,339	88.9	(X)	(X)
Separated	2,918	83.8	(X)	(X)	2,500	84.0	418	83.0	(X)	(X)
Never married	8,111	84.6	(X)	(X)	6,872	85.8	1,239	78.4	(X)	(X)
No parent present	2,865	59.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	2,865	59.3
Family income										
Under $15,000	9,516	78.6	1,983	73.0	5,706	84.5	559	74.2	1,257	62.3
$15,000 to $29,999	12,084	81.8	5,705	80.9	4,933	85.9	939	78.0	516	60.1
$30,000 to $49,999	15,140	86.5	10,360	87.8	3,328	87.7	963	84.2	489	55.6
$50,000 to $74,999	14,414	92.5	12,160	94.1	1,493	87.6	455	90.1	307	54.4
$75,000 and over	21,157	95.1	19,447	96.4	1,013	83.9	380	90.0	316	57.0
Poverty status										
Below 100 percent of poverty	12,239	78.0	3,895	75.1	6,326	84.0	838	74.1	1,380	60.9
100 to 199 percent of poverty	15,686	82.5	9,147	83.3	4,949	85.3	935	78.1	655	56.5
200 percent of poverty and above	44,396	93.3	36,673	95.0	5,199	88.5	1,723	87.4	851	58.6
Household receives public assistance										
Receives assistance	3,372	86.5	778	98.2	2,101	86.5	154	92.2	340	82.6
Does not receive assistance	68,949	88.0	48,888	91.2	14,372	83.9	3,143	81.7	2,545	56.2
Household tenure										
Owns/buying	48,542	90.5	38,362	93.3	6,547	84.5	1,808	85.2	1,825	59.6
Rents	22,512	83.6	10,386	83.9	9,689	86.7	1,444	78.9	1,012	58.4
No cash rent	1,266	80.6	938	93.1	237	84.0	44	68.2	48	68.7
Type of residence[5]										
Central city, in MSA	20,971	85.6	12,202	88.6	6,821	85.8	1,105	77.6	1,044	57.9
Outside central city, in MSA	38,194	89.9	29,540	92.8	5,944	87.3	1,477	83.6	1,234	55.9
Outside MSA	13,155	88.4	8,924	90.4	2,908	87.0	716	86.3	588	68.6

X Not applicable

[1] All people under age 18, excluding group quarters, householders, subfamily reference people, and their spouses.

[2] Data are not shown separately for the American Indian and Alaska Native population because of the small sample size in the Current Population Survey in March 2001.

[3] If the parent is either the householder with an unmarried partner in the household, or the unmarried partner of the householder, they are cohabiting based on this direct measure. Cohabiting couples where neither partner is the householder are not identified.

[4] POSSLQ (Persons of the Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters) is defined by the presence of only two people over age 15 in the household who are opposite sex, not related, and not married. There can be any number of people under age 15 in the household. The universe of children under age 15 is shown as the denominator for POSSLQ measurement.

[5] "MSA" refers to Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Note: Data based on the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/p60-3rv.pdf

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey.

of Population and Housing. The second was the State Children's Health Insurance (SCHIP) sample expansion. The use of independent survey controls and the SCHIP expansion are explained in more detail in Current Population Survey Technical Paper 63RV, *Design and Methodology*, TP63RV, Washington DC, March 2002.[28]

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level. This means the 90-percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports to minimize these errors.

The Current Population Survey weighting procedure uses ratio estimation whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to *www.bls.census.gov/cps/ads/2002/S&A_02.pdf* or contact Jeffrey Stratton of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division on the Internet at *dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov*.

MORE INFORMATION

Detailed tables from the March 2002 CPS are available on the Internet, at the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site (*www.census.gov*). Once on the site, click on Subjects A-Z, select "C," and then select "Children's data." From the "Children's data" page, select "Detailed tables" under "2002 March CPS" and then choose from the list of options.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Fields, Jason. 2003. *Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics: March 2002.* Current Population Reports, P20-547. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

CONTACTS

Statistical Information Staff: *POP@Census.gov*, 301-763-2422

Jason Fields: Fertility and Family Statistics Branch. *Jason.M.Fields@Census.gov*, 301-763-2416

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[28] ibid.

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